

W6OTX

W6ARA

PAARA NEWSLETTER
VOLUME 76, NUMBER 5, May 2025

K6OTA

K6YQT

PAARAgraphs



The Official Newsletter of the
Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

The Friendliest Club Around

Celebrating 88 years as an *active* amateur radio club—*Since 1937*

<http://www.paara.org/>



The Software Defined Radio and why it belongs in your shack

Carlos Felix K90L

Carlos Felix, US Amateur Radio Callsign K90L, US Parachute Association license D-36519. I became a licensed skydiver in 2012, a radio amateur in 2019. I love experimenting with radio and skydiving/parachuting gives me a great platform to test things from. In the winter when I can't skydive, I go play with my radio at POTA parks in the area to have fun and test new gear.

**This meeting will be a
Hybrid Meeting
Zoom and In Person**

Time: May 2, 2025 07:00 PM Pacific Time
Please check <https://www.paara.org/> for
Zoom Details

Upcoming Events

May 2 June 6 July 11	PAARA General Meeting, 7:00 PM to ~9:30PM Zoom and In Person Meeting.
May 21 June 18 July 16	Board Meeting, 7:00 PM. Everyone welcome! Zoom Meeting, eMail President for details.
May 3	PAARA In the Park, Cupertino Memorial Park
May 18	PAARA sponsored Electronics Flea Market



President's Corner

Well, May is finally here! It's going to be a busy month. Come to the club meeting on May 2nd to hear our speaker Carlos Felix (K90L) talk about Software Defined Radio and why it belongs in your shack. Carlos is a licensed skydiver and combines radio with parachuting, giving him a unique perspective, and a really unique platform with which to test radio and antenna configurations. I'm sure it will be a fun and informative evening!



The next day, May 3rd, is the PAARA in the Park event at Cupertino Memorial Park. We'll be building foxhole radios, having some really great BBQ, making contacts, and generally enjoying a great day in the company of the friendliest hams around! Look for the flyer elsewhere in the newsletter for more information about PAARA in the Park, and make plans to come to

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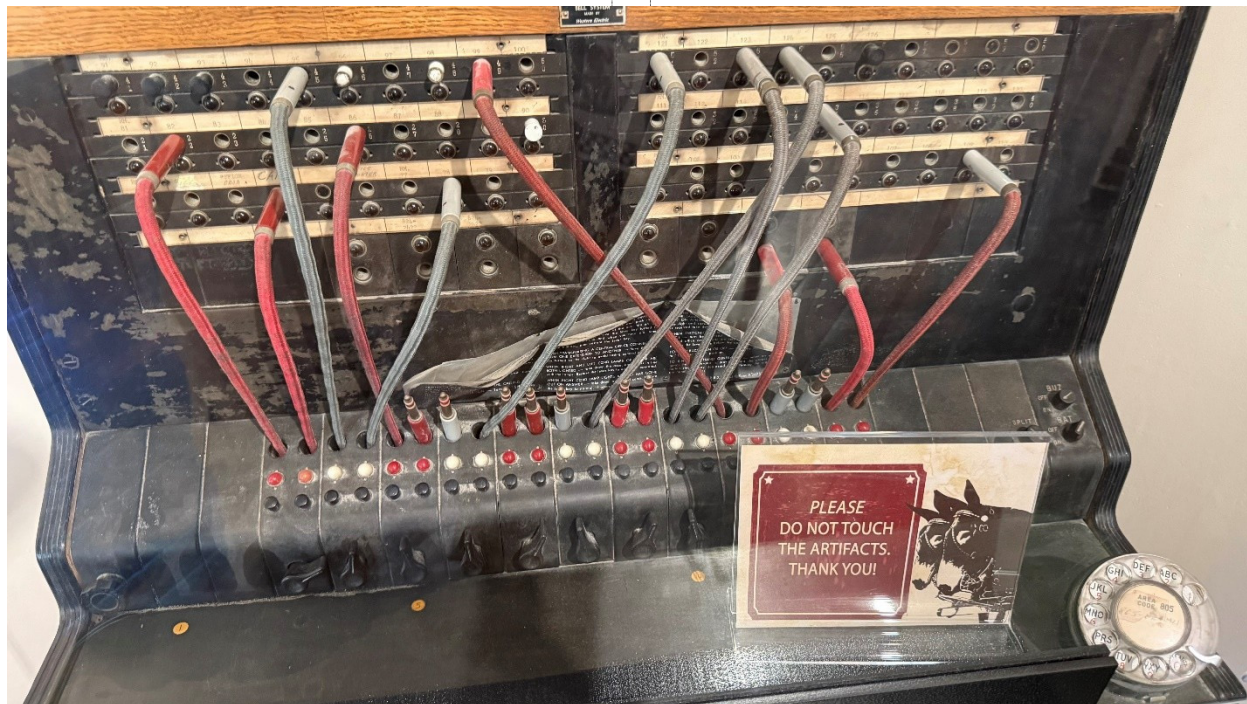
Questions of the Month



What was used as the detector in a foxhole radio and why did it work?

Telegraph?

I was in the Borax Museum in Death Valley looking at various artifacts from the late 1800s to early 1900s and overheard a 10-year old girl ask, "Momma, what is this?".



was partly correct in that it is used for communication, just not in the way she told her daughter it was used. Clearly, she doesn't know what a telegraph is either! I guess Mama had no idea what was on the other end of the telephone when she called the operator as a little girl! I

Moma replies, "It's a telegraph." The little girl asks, "What's a telegraph?" Moma answers, "It's how they used to communicate in the old days."

OMG, what's the world coming to when Mama can't even recognize a bloody switchboard? She

didn't have the heart to speak up as Dad stood there, stoic as ever! He probably didn't know either!

Jim, K6SV

Barista Opportunity

The club needs your help with setting up the coffee urns before the meeting starts, and with taking them down when the meeting is over. Simple and clear instructions will be available, as well as coaching as needed. If you can also store the two boxes between meetings and wash the baskets from the urns between meetings (particularly before a meeting where you can help with setup) that would be of great help, although it's not strictly necessary. Please add your name to the coffee rotation sign-up sheet which will be posted above the coffee urns, or get in touch with Sorin KN6YUH. Your help is greatly appreciated!

Discord Server

Do you want to talk to other PAARA members and friends about Homebrew, POTA, SOTA, digital modes, or any other ham radio topic? Download the App or use the Web version, then join our server by scanning the QR code, or visiting <https://discord.gg/qPyn5h8p6H>.



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the park on Saturday. The build projects will begin at 11am, so if you've signed up for one, don't miss it, and if you haven't signed up to build a radio, it will still be really interesting to watch and discuss the history and theory of operation of these historical gems.

A few weeks later on May 18th, PAARA is sponsoring the Electronics Flea Market at West Valley College in Saratoga. This is the club's main fundraising event during the year that helps cover the costs of other activities like PAARA in the Park and Field Day. The flea market runs from 6am to 12pm on Sunday morning, and volunteers are needed to help set up, sell vendor tickets, operate the food sales area, and tear down after the event ends at noon. Please consider helping the club operate this event by volunteering even a few hours of your time. Information about specific available volunteer opportunities and times along with a sign-up sheet will be provided at the club meeting on May 2nd and at PAARA in the Park on May 3rd.

Field Day is coming up on June 28-29. Doug (KG6LWE) is coordinating Field Day activities and he'll be starting to have antenna work parties scheduled on available Saturdays to prepare the large antennas for the event as well as help coordinate setup, teardown, and all the other activities associated with Field Day. Even if you haven't helped before, and don't think you know anything about antennas, your contributions are valuable, and it's a fun way to learn more about Field Day, antennas, and amateur radio. If you can make it to any of the scheduled work parties, we'd love to have you!

The board has set up a new club announcements mailing list to be used for infrequent, but timely, communications about club activities. You should have received two emails recently. The first one has the subject "You have been added to announcements" and contains information about the mailing list, including instructions on how to unsubscribe if you prefer not to receive these emails. If you don't see this email, please check your spam folder.

The second email contains information from Rob (KC6TYD) about ordering Field Day T-shirts, which can also be found on the club web

site at <http://www.paara.org>. Note that to ensure that your shirt arrives in time for Field Day, orders must be placed by May 2nd. There will be a reminder about ordering shirts at the May meeting, so hopefully everyone who would like one will have ample opportunity to place an order.

It's going to be a busy couple of months, but it's going to be great fun! I hope you can join us for some or all of the activities planned for May and June! I hope to see you at the meeting on May 2nd, either IRL or on Zoom!

73, Bob KN6YGN

Get on the air to keep the airwaves alive!

April 2025 Board Meeting Minutes

Present were President Bob Ridenour KN6YGN, Vice President Rob Fenn KC6TYD, Secretary Ric Hulett N6AJS, Directors Doug Tetter KG6LWE, Walt Gyger K6WGY, Darryl Presley KI6LDM, and Sorin Constantinescu KN6YUH. Also attending were Shri, KA6Q, and Clark KK6ISP. A quorum was present. The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm.

Officer Reports

- President's Report (Bob):
 - Domain registration for paara.org was renewed on 4/12.
 - Reviewing the meeting schedule, there is a short time between the May Board meeting and the June club meeting. This should not pose a problem.
- Secretary's Report:
 - Sent 19 reminder postcards out to members who have not yet renewed for 2025.
 - The FCC form 605 to change trustees on W6OTX and W6ARA have been sent to our contact at ARRL. Two more call signs are yet to be processed.
 - California form SI-100 (statement of information) was updated.
- Treasurer's Report (Margaret):
 - As 4/15 is tax day, I'm expecting our bookkeeper will have a moment to breathe and I will follow up with her about the 2024 year-end financials. We need those final-

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ized for a May 15 IRS "Treasurer's Report" filing. That will be at the top of my pile after this week.

- VP / Program Chair Report (Rob):
 - Our speaker for the May meeting is Carlos Felix K9OL. His topic is: The Software Defined Radio, and Why it Belongs in Your Shack.

Standing Items

- PAARA Members! You know that you have an interesting ham radio story from your long ham career. And yet, you haven't put that story into an article for PAARAgaphs. This is your chance: We need more articles from you, our members for our newsletter! Write your story and send to our editor, Bob Ridenour KN6YGN.
- Education Committee:
 - Our Question of the Month for May is, "What detector was used in a foxhole radio, and how did it work?"
- PAARA in the Park, Saturday May 3.
 - The educational project for May is construction of a 'foxhole' radio, a very simple no-power crystal set. We are planning for 21 kits to be built.
 - Mikko AB6RF has built a coil winding jig, saving much effort.
- Radio loaner program: Our young member has put up an antenna and is making contacts!
- PAARAgaphs advertising: We will send out reminders to our advertisers that payment is due.
- PAARA Field Trip:
 - This trip has been rescheduled, tentatively to August 23. We will visit the USS Hornet, in Alameda. Rob KC6TYD will make reservations. We may or may not have access to the ham station.
- Field Day:
 - Antenna work parties: Doug is requesting volunteers to sign up for potential work days. We will need 3. Marty W6NEV suggested we have a zoom meeting to coordinate tasks.

- We have reservations and permits from the City of Menlo Park.
- Network Day will probably be mid-June.
T-shirts: Information for ordering PAARA Field Day T-shirts is on the paara.org website.
- We discussed other FD activities (a tour, transmitter hunts). At this time, we will stick to our traditional format (radios and food).
- List of people to invite to Field Day: Bob and Doug will work on this.
We don't have an extra-points coordinator (signins, etc). Volunteers are welcome!
- IT Subcommittee Updates:
 - We reviewed the updated website. This will go live after the May club meeting. Web update requests should now go to webmaster@paara.org.

Coffee: There is a signup sheet, by months: We need members to handle coffee for one or more months. We can post the signup list in PAARAgaphs.

Sorin has created a mailing list with all member e-mail addresses. Announcements@paara.org We'd like to ask all members to look for Rob's first announcement on 4/18. If found in your SPAM folder, please mark as 'not spam' to continue receiving communications from the board.

Old Business

- Trustee Status:
 - Ric has submitted paperwork to assign:
 - ◆ W6OTX (formerly Gerry, N6NV) to Christopher, AI6KG
 - ◆ W6ARA (formerly Gerry, N6NV) to Bob, KN6YGN
 - Remaining callsigns:
 - ◆ K6OTA (current trustee: Ron W6AZ)
 - ◆ K6YQT (current trustee: Doug KG6LWE)
 - Need to determine how to reassign the club for K6YQT
- Electronics Flea Market 2025:
 - PAARA is the sponsor for the May 18 EFM.
 - Will rent a U-Haul to pick up ASVARO

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supplies from the locker and transport them to the site.

Doug will assist on Saturday loads, and after the market for cleanup and close down. Rob will have items to sell from PAARA.

- o Review task and volunteer list. (Planning needs to be locked down by the beginning of May.)
 - o We need several volunteers to assist with EFM: Purchase of drinks and supplies, coffee and donut sales, et cetera.
- Bob will send out the list of EFM jobs.

New Business

- Club meeting dates: The July, 2026 PAARA meeting will be held on July 10, as 7/3 is the independence day holiday weekend.
- Rob KC6TYD is working on the application for our meeting room with the City of Palo Alto.
- We were contacted by the daughter of a local ham, who wanted to discuss her father's equipment with us. Rob will contact her.
- The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Ric Hulett N6AJS

PAARA Secretary



April Raffle Winners (left to right):

Bob (KN6YGN), Doug (KO6FJ),
 Sorin (KN6YUH), Perry (KI6OPZ)
 Not Shown: Margaret (K6WEK)

PAARA



5th 17-piece RF adaptor kit



4th Radtel RT-420 6-Band Radio



3rd FLUKE 101 600 V CAT III DMM



2nd Klein Tools 32516HD KNECT 16-in-1 Impact-Rated Hybrid Screwdriver/Nut Driver



1st Rite in the Rain 3-piece Notebook



PAARA-In-The-Park

May 3, 2025 Cupertino Memorial Park

10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.



BBQ



Build a Foxhole Receiver!

A foxhole radio is a very simple powerless receiver using nothing but household items. It gives you a real appreciation of what many of our solders built during World War II to get the latest news. It also allows you to understand at a very basic level how a receiver works. These receivers do not need power except the RF energy in the air.

Reserve yours now with one of these payment options by April 25:

1. Email paarapay@gmail.com for a PayPal invoice.
2. Make check out to PAARA and mail to PAARA Foxhole project at POBox 911 Menlo Park, CA 94022,
3. Pay by cash at the April meeting 5-2-25



GOTA station



Learn

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

PO Box 911 Menlo Park, CA 94026

Officers

President	Bob Ridenour, KN6YGN	650-575-4528
	bob_ridenour@yahoo.com	
Vice President	Rob Fenn, KC6TYD	650-888-9060
	kc6tyd@gmail.com	
Secretary	Ric Hulett, N6AJS	408-332-4593
	n6ajs@arrl.net	
Treasurer	Margaret Cooper, K6WEK	
	k6wek@arrl.net	

Directors

Director ('24-'25)	Sorin Constantinescu, KN6YUH,	
	consta@gmail.com	
Director ('25-'26)	Walt Gyger, K6WGY	408-921-5901
	wgyger@ix.netcom.com	
Director ('25)	Doug Teter, KG6LWE	650-743-7892
	dteter@wcwi.com	
Director ('25)	Darryl Presley, KI6LDM	650 255-2454
	ki6ldm@arrl.net	

Appointed Positions

Membership	Ric Hulett, N6AJS	408-332-4593
	N6AJS@arrl.net	
Database	Ric Hulett, N6AJS	408-332-4593
	N6AJS@arrl.net	
Station Trustee	K6OTA Ron Chester, W6AZ	
Property Manager	Doug Teter, KG6LWE	
Badge Coordinator	Doug Teter, KG6LWE	650-743-7892
	dteter@wcwi.com	
Historian Position	<i>Position Vacant</i>	
Raffle Coordinators	Rob Fenn, KC6TYD,	
	kc6tyd@gmail.com	
	Shrikumar, KA6Q	
	shri.paara@enablery.org	
Field Day Coordinator	Doug Teter, KG6LWE	650-743-7892
ASVARO Rep	Clark Martin, KK6ISP	
	kk6isp@sonic.net	
Webmaster	Shrikumar, KA6Q	
	webaron@gmail.com	
Technical Coordinator	Christopher, AI6KG	408-348-0304
	ch@murgatroid.com	
QSL Manager	Ric Hulett, N6AJS	408-332-4593
Speaker Coordinator	Rob Fenn, KC6TYD	650-888-9060

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	wgyger@ix.netcom.com	
Member Profiles	<i>Position Vacant</i>	
Technical Tips	Ric Hulett, N6AJS	
Photographer	<i>Position Vacant</i>	

VE Exams

De Anza Park, Sunnyvale, 2nd Saturday 10:30 am each month except November and December. See website for details and exceptions: <http://amateur-radio.org>

Electronics Flea Market (EFM)

Sponsorship: Association of Silicon Valley Amateur Radio Organizations (ASVARO). The Electronics Flea Market is held at West Valley College, 14000 Fruitvale Ave, Saratoga.

Website: <http://www.electronicfleamarket.com/>

PAARA — Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association

Meets 1st Friday 7:00pm each month at Room H-6, Cubberley Community Center; Net 145.230 - PL 100Hz Mondays at 8:30. See website at <http://www.paara.org>. For more information. contact: Joel Wilhite KD6W, kd6w@arrl.net, 650-325-8239

FARS — Foothills Amateur Radio Society

Meets 4th Friday each month at 7:00pm at Covington School, Los Altos.

Website: <http://www.fars.k6ya.org>

NCDXC — Northern California DX Club

Meets 3rd Thursday 7:00pm each month, Repeater for member info 147.360. Contact president@ncdxc.org. Website: <http://ncdxc.org>. YouTube content: "The Northern California DX Club Official Channel". Cohost of the International DX Convention.

The 50MHz & Up Group of Northern California

This organization specializes in vhf + wak signal and microwave activities. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month. Time is usually 5pm for in person meetings, and 7pm for Zoom only meetings. In person meetings are held Sports Basement, 1177 Kern Ave, Sunnyvale. Always check the website, <http://50MhzandUp.org>, for correct information. Zoom information is also there.

San Mateo Radio Club W6UQ.ORG

Meets, 3rd Friday, January through November.

Tuesdays & Thursdays, [Directed] Net, 7pm, N6ZX 145.370Hz, -600KHz, PL107.2Hz

Contact: SanMateoRadioClub@gmail.com, Website: <http://W6UQ.org/calendar>

SPECS

Southern Peninsula Emergency Communication System users Group

Meets each Monday 7:30pm and 8:00pm.

See: <https://specsnet.org/monday-night-net> for more info.

Contact: <https://www.specsnet.org/contact> or board@specsnet.org

SCARES

South County Amateur Radio Emergency Service

Meets 3rd Thursday 7:30pm each month, Belmont EOC, Belmont City Hall, One Twin Pines Lane, Belmont CA 94002. Net is on 146.445 [PL 114.8] & 444.50 (PL-100) 7:30 Monday evenings. Contact: President Gary D. Aden, K6GDA 650-743-1265 (D), 650- 595-5590 (N)

Web: <http://k6mpn.org> E-mail: pres@k6mpn.org

SCCARA

Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Operates W6UU & W6UU/R, repeater 146.985-pl

Nets: 2m, 7:30pm Mon; 70cm, 10M (28.385) 8PM Thur.

Meets 2nd Mon each month @ 7:30 PM.

ARRL/VEC license testing contact 408-507-4698

SVECS — Silicon Valley Emergency Communications

Operates AA6BT repeater (146.115 MHz+)

Website: <http://www.svecs.net> or contact: Lou Stierer WA6QYS 408 241 7999

WVARA — West Valley Amateur Radio Association

W6PIY six-meter repeater on 52.58MHz. Normally, six-meters is linked with 147 and 223, while 441 and 1286 repeaters are linked.

VHF: 52.58 (-500) 151.4 ctcss UHF: 147.39 (+600) 151.4 ctcss 441.35 (+5.0) 88.5 ctcss
223.96 (+1.6) 156.7 ctcss 1286.20 (-12m) 100.0 ctcss

Meetings are 2nd Wednesday of every month except July, August and December.

Website: <http://wvara.org>, Contact: info@wvara.org

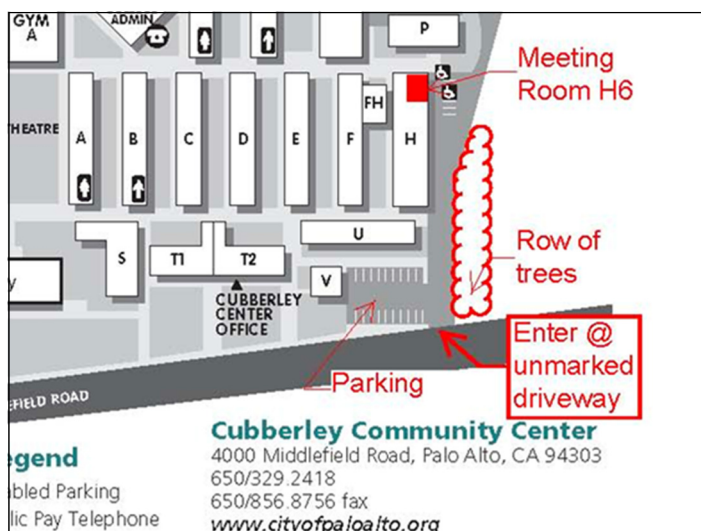
(Please send changes to PAARAgaphs editor)



For Sale: World War 2 vintage shortwave radio

Model BC-1147A — Covers AM broadcast through 30 MHz.

\$200 Contact: Harry Logan 650-941-4587



**Meeting Location — Middlefield Road
between San Antonio and Charleston in Palo
Alto. 4000 Middlefield Road**



PAARA Weekly Radio Net

Info and Swap Session
every Monday evening at 8:30pm
on the N6NFI 145.230 MHz repeater

Week Control Operator

1 st	Doug - KG6LWE
2 nd	Doug - KG6LWE
3 rd	Ric - N6AJS
4 th	Rob - KC6TYD
5 th	Rob - KC6TYD

If you're interested in trying out at Net Control, Contact Doug, KG6LWE. It's good practice, and lots o' fun! Give it a try.

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KJ6GUK General License, PAARA member

777 Woodside Rd., Suite B, Redwood City, CA 94061

Email: KARLDRESDEN@juno.com

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association P.O. Box 911, Menlo Park California 94026-0911

Club meetings are on the first Friday of each month,
7:00pm at the Room H-6, Cubberley Community Center.

Radio NET & Swap Session every Monday evening, at
8:30pm, on the 145.230 –600 MHz repeater, PL 100Hz.

Membership in PAARA is \$25.00 per calendar year,
which includes one subscription to PAARAgaphs
\$6 for each additional family member (no newsletter).

Make payment to the
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PAARA W6OTX Repeaters Located near Alum Rock Park, San Jose		
VHF DMR	144.9625 MHz +2.5 MHz CC3	Slot 1: Dynamic Slot 2: NorCal BM (31068)
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PAARA Badges

Badges can be ordered through
 our website [https://www.paara.org/
 pages/members-current.html](https://www.paara.org/pages/members-current.html).

Scroll to the bottom of the page
 and fill out the info. All badges will
 be mailed.

The cost for a badge is \$30.00.

PAARAgaphs Ad Rates

PAARAgaphs accepts paid advertisements from non-members. (short personal ads remain free for members in good standing). **All ad rates listed are per issue.**

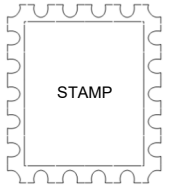
- Not-for-profit ads by association members for ham-related items and wants. No cost for business card-size ads (additional space at \$2.50 per business card size per issue).
- For Profit organizations and/or individuals: \$5-business card size, \$14.00-quarter page, \$25-half page, \$50 full page or back cover per issue.

These fees may be reduced or waived in exchange for a valuable consideration that is given to the Association or its general membership. Such consideration must be in addition to any existing arrangements with the association. The PAARAgaphs editors reserve the right to reject any ad deemed to be not in the best interest of the Association.

All fees payable in advance by the year with "scanner-ready" copy or text-only ads. **Give payment and copy to Walt Gyger, K6WGY.**

PAARAgaphs — May 2025

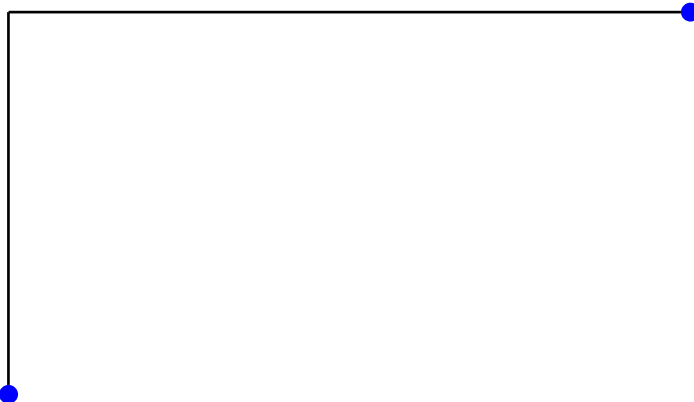
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FTDX10 | HF/50MHz 100 W SDR Transceiver

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Auto Antenna Tuner • Microphone Amplifier w/2-Stage Parametric
Equalizer • Remote Operation w/Optional LAN Unit (SD-LAN10)



FT-991A | HF/VHF/UHF All Mode Transceiver

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Multi-color waterfall display • State of the art 32-bit Digital
Signal Processing System • 3kHz Roofing Filter for enhanced
performance • 3.5 inch Full Color TFT USB Capable • Internal
Automatic Antenna Tuner • High Accuracy TCXO



FTDX101D | HF + 6M Transceiver

• Narrow Band SSB & Direct Sampling SDR • Crystal Roofing
Filters Phenomenal Multi-Signal Receiving Characteristics • Un-
paralleled 70dB Maximum Attenuation VC-Tune • 15 Separate
FAM T0 + 6EH S1 Powerful Band Pass Filters • New Generation
Scope Displays 3-Dimensional Spectrum Stream



FT-710 Aess | HF/50MHz 100W SDR Transceiver

• Unmatched SDR Receiving Performance • Band Pass Filters De-
signed for the Amateur Bands • High Res 4.3-inch TFT Color Touch
Display • AES3 Acoustic Enhanced Speaker System with SP-40
For High-Fidelity Audio • Built-in High Speed Auto Antenna Tuner



FT-891 | HF-50 MHz All Mode Mobile Transceiver

Stable 100 Watt Output • 32 dB RF SFP • Large Dot Matrix LCD
Display with Quick Spectrum Scope • USB Port Allows Con-
nection to a PC with a Simple Cable • CAT Control, PTT RTTY Control



FT-3185RASP | Heavy-Duty 85W 2M FM Transceiver

• Massive HeatSink Ensures Reliable 85W RF Power • Super-DX
Function Increases Receiver Sensitivity & Weak Signal Reception •
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FTM-150RASP | 2M/430MHz FM True Dual Band Xciv

• Dual Receivers (V-U, U-U, U-U, U-U) Operator • 55W
VHF & 50W UHF • Heavy Duty Real Sink w/Universal RF Connection
Conductor • Front & Rear Body Speaker for 6W High Quality Audio



FTM-510DRASP | CFM/FM 144/430MHz Dual Band Xciv

• New Super-DX A3P Inductive Digital Signal Processor Unit • True
Dual-Band Receiver (V-U/U-U, U-U/U-U) • CFM/FM Digital D-D
Dual Receiver • 2.4" High-Res Full-Color Touch-Pane Display •
Wireless Operation Capability with Optional Bluetooth® Headset



FT-60R | VHF/UHF Rugged Dual Band

• Over 1000 Memory Channels • Wide Bank
Receiver Coverage • High Power Output 5 Watts
• High CO Display • 100A Slave Weather Alert
with Alert Scan



FT-70DR CFM/FM 144/430MHz Xciv

• System Fusion Compatible • Large Front
Speaker delivers 700 mW of Loud Audio Output
• Automatic Mode Select: detects CATM or FM
Audio and Switches Accordingly • 1000 1, 105
Channel Memory Capacity • External DC Jack for
DC Supply and Battery Charging



FT-50R CFM/FM 144/430 MHz Dual Band

• High-Res Full-Color Touch Screen TFT LCD
Display • Easy Hands-Free Operation w/Built-in
Bluetooth® Unit • Built-in High Precision GPS
Antenna • 1200/800bps AFSK Data Commu-
nications • Supports Simultaneous CFM Digital
Micro SD Card Slot



FT-65R | 144/430 MHz Transceiver

Compact Commercial Grade Rugged Design •
Large Front Speaker Delivers 1W of Powerful
Clear Audio • 5 Watts of Portable RF Power With-
in a compact Body • 3.5-Hour Rapid Charge In-
cluded • Large White LED Flashlight, Alarm and
Quick Home Channel Access



VX-6R | VHF/UHF Dual Band Hand-Held

• Big-Radio Features in a Compact Package •
Wide-Band Receiver Coverage for Catching All the
Action • 900-Channel 24-Bank Memory System
• Outdoor-Ready Features including Waterproof
Rating • Smart Screen Automatic 31-Channel
Scanning/Locking System



• RETAIL LOCATIONS - Store hours 10:00AM - 5:30PM - Closed Sunday
• PHONE - Toll-free phone hours 8:30AM - 5:30PM
• ONLINE - WWW.HAMRADIO.COM
• FAX - All store locations
• MAIL - All store locations



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